

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNITION OF THE OHIO STATE SCHOOL FOR THE BLIND MARCHING BAND ON MARCHING IN THE 2010 TOURNAMENT OF ROSES PARADE

**HON. MARY JO KILROY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 15, 2010*

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Ohio State School for the Blind Marching Band, who in January 2010, became the first blind marching band in the nation to march in the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, California. Thirty-five talented and inspirational blind students, accompanied by their sighted marching assistants, demonstrated their unique abilities by marching alongside some of the nation's top marching bands.

Located in Columbus, the publicly-funded Ohio State School for the Blind offers academic, vocational, and extra-curricular opportunities to its students. The school is committed to developing their students' potential by partnering with the community to ensure that their students' educational experience is both effective and enjoyable.

The Ohio State School for the Blind has the only fully blind marching band in the nation. Before joining the Tournament of Roses Parade, the marching band performed at the Ohio School for the Deaf football games and other local events. This unique marching band was formed in 2005 and the members were thrilled to discover in October 2008 that their application to march in the Tournament of Roses Parade had been approved.

January 1, 2010, was an exciting day for central Ohio. In addition to celebrating the victory of The Ohio State Buckeyes over the University of Oregon Ducks, I was proud to see the young people of the Ohio State School for the Blind Marching Band represent our district with such passion and skill. The marching band completed the full parade route of almost six miles and participated in the halftime show, wowing the crowds with their signature performance of Script Ohio in Braille.

The Ohio School for the Blind provides an immeasurable service to our blind children and their families. Their marching band's recent trip to California is an excellent example of one of the many achievements these dedicated and talented students have attained. It is with great pride that I honor the Ohio State School for the Blind and congratulate its stellar Marching Band on such a remarkable achievement.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 15, 2010*

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, on March 11, 2010, I was unavoidably detained and was

unable to record my vote for rollcall Nos. 92–94. Had I been present I would have voted: rollcall 103: “yes”—On Agreeing to Article II of the Resolution; and rollcall 104: “yes”—On Agreeing to Article III of the Resolution.

### RECOGNITION OF THE SHAMROCK CLUB AND THE IRISH COMMUNITY OF CENTRAL OHIO

**HON. MARY JO KILROY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 15, 2010*

Ms. KILROY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of The Shamrock Club of Columbus and its president Francis Doyle for their efforts to share and celebrate the historical, cultural, and social contributions of Irish-Americans. The Shamrock Club of Columbus is a non-profit social organization that hosts events throughout the year and builds lasting friendships between Columbus residents.

On March 17, 2010, The Shamrock Club will join other members of our nation's Irish community in celebrating Saint Patrick's Day. Each year, The Shamrock Club celebrates the Feast of Saint Patrick with a procession, a mass, a parade, and the annual Irish Family Reunion. Since 1936, this group has organized and sponsored the traditional St. Patrick's Day Parade, which has become a beloved tradition for families throughout Columbus area.

The Shamrock Club benefits from the leadership of President Francis Doyle, a man whose dedication to the Irish community of Columbus has made him an influential member of the group since he first joined over 40 years ago. Before being named president, Francis helped to organize the annual Irish Family Reunion, which brings together Irish families and supporters for an afternoon of activities and celebration. Francis has proven to be an energetic and intelligent president, and under his leadership The Shamrock Club has grown to almost 2,500 members.

The members of The Shamrock Club and Irish-Americans throughout central Ohio have contributed greatly to the social and cultural development of our community. I am proud to honor Francis Doyle, The Shamrock Club of Columbus, and the large and vibrant Irish community in central Ohio as they join together to celebrate Irish heritage.

### AFGHANISTAN WAR POWERS RESOLUTION

SPEECH OF

**HON. MICHAEL E. CAPUANO**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 10, 2010*

Mr. CAPUANO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the resolution introduced by my colleague, Rep. DENNIS KUCINICH, with

the aim of bringing an end to the U.S. troop commitment in Afghanistan. I am a cosponsor of this resolution because, while not perfect, I believe it initiates a debate that is long overdue in Congress: what is our military strategy in Afghanistan and what future mission or missions are planned for our troops there? How long are they to be deployed and what are they being asked to accomplish? Do we also have a coherent diplomatic strategy for South Asia, involving not just Afghanistan but both Pakistan and India?

For some time now, I have advocated the development of a U.S. exit strategy for Afghanistan. I voted to authorize use of force in 2001 against those responsible for the September 11 attacks. President Bush rightly determined that the Taliban regime in Afghanistan was providing shelter and material support to al-Qaeda, and he sent U.S. forces to Afghanistan to root out the terrorists. But the terrorists have now been largely driven from Afghanistan, and yet, President Obama seeks to increase our troop deployment to over 100,000 men and women in uniform. Given the statement from General Jim Jones last fall that there are currently fewer than 100 al-Qaeda members in Afghanistan, I have to question why a troop build up is necessary if our goal is to pursue the terrorists. In fact, I think all of my colleagues should question this.

It may not be realistic to withdraw all of our troops by year's end, and I believe we should retain the ability to take limited military action in concert with the Government of Afghanistan in certain circumstances. However, the time to change course and start concluding this war is now. We must plan for the orderly redeployment of troops and rethink our approach to fighting terrorism globally.

I thank my colleague for introducing this resolution and encouraging a fresh look at U.S. military policy. I know that we will continue to raise this issue until it has registered at the highest levels and we are able to bring our men and women in uniform home.

### HONORING GLADYS FLAMER

**HON. JIM GERLACH**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, March 15, 2010*

Mr. GERLACH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Gladys Flamer, a Coatesville, Pennsylvania resident whose tremendous dedication to her community and church and participation in local politics have earned her the Fourth Annual Rebecca Lukens Award.

At 103 years old, Gladys maintains an incredible work ethic that she developed at her father's side helping with farm chores and polishing silver with other employees at the estate of Lukens Steel President Robert Wolcott. After holding jobs as a licensed practical nurse and owning her own beauty salon, Gladys retired from her jobs as a sales associate at Strawbridge and Clothier at age 90.

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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